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THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE

ST. IVES. BOROUGH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

Public Health Dept.,
The Guildhall,
St. Ives, C.

13th November, 1956.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman	J.W. Daniel, (Chairman)
MAYOR	Councillor E.H. Curnow.
Alderman.	T. Bryant.
Alderman.	J. Curnow.
Alderman	T. Freeman.
Councillor	W.S. Lander.
Councillor	J. Payne.
Councillor	G.N. Pearce.
Councillor	N.G.Sanders.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. W.K. Dunscombe, M.D., M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

F.C. Deeble, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for the Borough of St. Ives.

As you are aware I took up my appointment as Medical Officer of Health to your Authority in March, 1956 and therefore, in introducing this Annual Report for 1955 on behalf of Mr. Dunscombe I should like to thank Mr. Deeble for recording the information following this preamble.

I am refraining from any comment on the statistical information for 1955 as the figures are relatively small and it is very easy to draw false conclusions from such statistics.

There were no cases of the more serious notifiable diseases but it is to be noted that Tuberculosis still figures strongly on the list shown at Appendix A, when the relatively small size of the population is taken into account.

Although there were no cases of diphtheria it must be borne in mind that it is not many years since cases were regularly occurring and a continued high rate of immunization is necessary. The figures for diphtheria immunization in Appendix A show a decline of 27 primary immunizations: 87 children received primary immunization in 1955 so that the fall is relatively big and this trend will need watching.

It is perhaps dangerous for a newcomer to comment on staffing in the first few months of his appointment but I note Mr. Deeble's remarks at the beginning of his report: it must be particularly difficult in a relatively small authority where there is such a big influx of summer visitors to be able to cover all public health needs adequately, particularly at the height of the summer season when dangerous infectious disease may be introduced into the community from up country, and when close supervision of food, water and other essential services is so necessary.

D.L. JOHNSON.

Medical Officer of Health.
St.Ives Borough.

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STATISTICAL INFORMATION

1.	Civilian Population (Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate).		8,550.
2.	Area.		4,339. acres.
3.	Rateable Value.		£89, 994.
4.	Product of 1d. rate.		£355.
5.	Number of Inhabited houses.		3,195
6.	Live Births.	52 male. 39 female.	91.
		Rate per 1,000 population.	10.64
7.	Still Births.	2 Male 4 Female	6
		Rate per 1,000 total births.	61.9.
8.	Deaths of Infants under 1 year.		3
9.	Deaths.	59 Male 63 Female.	122
		Rate per 1,000 population.	14.3.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis - other	-	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	5	1	6
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	2	6	8
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	7	16	23
Coronary disease, angina.	14	9	23
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	3	5
Other heart disease	6	5	11
Other circulatory disease	4	4	8
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	3	9
Allother accidents	1	1	2
Suicide.	1	-	1
Total	59	63	122

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart disease	39
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	23
Cancer	22

1. WATER SUPPLIES.

The filtration and treatment plant was again subjected to very heavy duty and a very strong case can be made for the provision of an additional filter and standby Chlorination plant.

The Water Engineer has intimated that he proposes to remove, wash, regrade and supplement the sand in the filters early in 1956 and this should improve the efficiency of the existing plant, but in my opinion this should be increased.

The following table is of interest in showing the progress made with new supplies :-

Number of houses:-	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.
(a) With main supply	2961	3030	3090	3126
(b) With standpipe supply	-	48	46	46
(c) Without either	182	119	118	65

2. SEWERAGE

The extension of the main system to the Hellesvean area was carried out, to serve not only the 10 existing dwellings, but also the adjacent development area.

3. HOUSING.

During the year 23 houses were built by the Council and 13 by private enterprise.

I must again report on the good liaison with the House Letting Sub-Committee. It has now become obvious that cases of housing need, on medical grounds, are given full and careful consideration.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 1955

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
for the Borough of St. Ives.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

In making a fair report on the years activity, I feel that it is not sufficient to merely comment on the work that has been undertaken, but that reference must also be drawn to those duties that have not received their due attention.

It will be appreciated that during the summer season, routine work has to be largely ignored in coping with the additional work and problems normally associated with a large seasonal influx of holiday makers. It is always the hope that much will be achieved during the quieter months, but in practice most of the available time is taken up in dealing with the day-to-day working of the department.

It is submitted that it is this unspectacular routine work, covering such a large range of human activities affecting housing, living and working conditions that is the vital work of the Public Health Department.

In accordance with the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954 the Council has formulated its five year Slum Clearance programme. In exercising their duties and powers under the Housing Acts, the Council are acutely aware of the necessity of paying full regard to the preservation of the character of the older section of the Borough which is held in great regard, not only by the residents, but also by the visiting public. It is generally agreed that the policy here should not be one of demolition and clearance, but of encouragement in those schemes of improvement, aimed at bringing existing property up to the standard now being accepted as requisite for satisfactory habitation

Much of the declared programme is concentrated on the Halsetown Area, where the problem is further complicated by the fact that very many of the dwellings have long reached that point where improvement and reconditioning is not an economic proposition. The problem of the housing conditions of this Area has already been long under consideration and will, I am sure, be treated as one where every effort will be made to reconcile the wishes of the residents of the area with the Council's duty under the Housing Statutes.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Miss L. Couch for her conscientious assistance during the year.

Your obedient servant,

P. C. DEBLE.

Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Dept.,
The Guildhall,
ST. IVES.

	Number of Visits
1. SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	
General Sanitation	
Drainage	251
Water Supply	11
Piggeries	7
Tents and Vans and Sheds	12
Public Conveniences	81
Factories	12
Workplaces	5
Rodent control	31
Schools	9
Filthy and Verminous Premises	33
Infectious Diseases & Disinfection.	52
Miscellaneous.	99
Housing	
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts.	153.
Houses Re-inspected under Public Health Acts.	52
Houses inspected under Housing Acts.	97
Houses Re-inspected under Housing Acts.	59
Miscellaneous.	322
Inspection & Supervision of Food	
Slaughterhouses	82
Butchers	21
Dairies & Milk Distributors	18
Fishmongers and Poulterers.	4
Food Preparing Premises.	16
Fried Fish Shops.	4
Grocers	37
Greengrocers and Fruiters.	3
Ice Cream Premises.	19
Restaurants	6
Bakehouses	6
Public Cleansing.	
Refuse collection.	34
Refuse disposal	42
Street Cleansing	42
Vehicle maintenance.	66
Shop Act and Regulations.	
Shop premises.	69
Storage of Petroleum Spirit	
Petroleum storage installations.	11.
Total visits and inspections	1 , 766
Notices Served	
Number of Informal Notices served	39
Number of Formal Notices Served	5
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	
Certificates of Disrepair issued.	2

2. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The new Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 will come into operation during the coming year and set a reasonably high standard, not only for the premises, but also for the hygienic conduct of those employed in food handling.

In the operation of this new legislation it will be vitally important to have the maximum co-operation of the food trade and although the penalties for non-compliance are severe, I hope that we can look forward to progress without recourse to Statutory action.

Meat Inspection

Of the two slaughterhouses licenced, only one has operated, during the year under review and in this case the throughput has been minimal.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	CATTLE Excluding Cows	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	HORSES
Number killed	85	1	16	68	95	-
Number Inspected	85	1	16	68	95	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	24	-	-	5	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	28	-	-	7	1	-
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	10	1	-	4	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	12	100	-	6	-	-
Cysticercosis.						
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Foodstuffs Condemned

Fresh Meat	680 lbs.
Various Tinned Goods	920 lbs.
Fish	347 lbs.
Frozen Foods	103 lbs.
Poultry	62 lbs.
Cooked Meat.	9 lbs.
Cheese.	4 lbs.
Total	2,125 lbs.

Milk Supply

Milk Regulations, 1949.

Registered distributors of Milk.	12
Registered Dairies	12

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950.

Dealer's Licence - Tuberculin Tested	2.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953.

Dealer's Licence - Pasteurised.	5

Ice Cream.

3 applications were received for the registration of premises, in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 The premises were inspected and found to be satisfactory and registrations granted.

Total registrations within the Borough are now as follows:-

Manufacture, storage and Sale	5
Storage and sale	63

8 Ice cream samples were taken with the results as follows:-

Grade 1 - 5	Grade 3 - Nil
Grade 2 - 3	Grade 4 - Nil

Fat content

These samples were also submitted for Fat Content Analysis and with one exception were all well above the prescribed legal standard. Details of the unsatisfactory sample were submitted to Mr. H.A.Rundle, of the Cornwall County Council, Weights and Measurers Department and a subsequent investigation led to a successful prosecution.

Weights and Measurers Control (Adulteration Etc.)

The County Council are responsible for the working of these Acts and Regulations and I am indebted to Mr. H.A.Rundle, Divisional Inspector, Weights and Measurers Department for the following report:-

Article Sampled.	Number Taken.	Genuine.	Sub-Standard.
Milk	19	19	
Butter	2	2	
Pork Sausages	1	1	
Lard	2	2	
Corn Beef	1	1	
Fruit Salad	1	1	
Butterscotch	1	1	
Flavoured Milk	2	2	
Ginger Breads	1	1	
Marzipan	2	2	
Ground Almonds	1	1	
Lemonade Powder	1	1	
Custard Powder	1	1	
Table Jelly	1	1	
Ice Cream	6	5	1
Brawn	1	1	
Totals ...	43	42	1

The sample of Ice cream was an informal one and showed a very large deficiency of fat content. A formal sample was subsequently procured in a neighbouring area from the same manufacturer and as that too revealed a large percentage deficiency in fat, proceedings were instituted and a substantial sum recovered by way of fine and costs.

None of the other samples calls for adverse comment and all samples of milk were of good quality.

3. WATER SAMPLING

Samples was submitted for analysis, the reports being as follows:-

Bacteriological Examination

Porthmeor Square	Satisfactory
Trewartha Estate	Satisfactory
Hicks Court	Satisfactory
Lelant Garage	Satisfactory
Bussow	Reasonably satisfactory
Reservoir Cottage	Reasonably satisfactory
Alexandra Road	Satisfactory
Alexandra Road	Very unsatisfactory
Alexandra Road	Satisfactory
Towednack Road	Unsatisfactory
Towednack Road	Unsatisfactory
Towednack Road	Satisfactory

Chemical Examination

Hicks Court	Satisfactory
41 Alexandra Road	There is a considerable amount of organic matter present in this water, and the bacteriological findings are very unsatisfactory for a chlorinated supply.
Harrys Garage, Lelant.	The findings are satisfactory, but as the water is extremely soft it would probably be corrosive to metals.

3 West Pier Flats.	There is a very small amount of copper in this water - 0.42 parts per million. This will have no adverse effects on health and could not possibly cause stomach pains or diarrhoea. It might and possibly would stain domestic utensils, particularly white enamel ware, and materials such as face cloths used in the slightly alkaline medium of soap. In my view it would be impossible excepting at great expense to overcome this trouble as copper is really the only suitable material to use for piping this particular water. If other materials were used even greater trouble may arise.

- - - - - - - - - -

The unsatisfactory report on the sample of water from Alexandra Road was made when the Chlorination Plant was temporarily out of order. Immediate steps were taken by the Water Engineer to "Hand feed" Chloros into the supply pending repairs, which were completed in a few days and as can be seen, further analysis proved satisfactory.

Resulting from the unsatisfactory reports on the supply to properties at Towednack Road the Water Engineer took immediate action to renew a section of the supply pipe to this area, which was responsible for the contamination. Subsequent analysis was satisfactory.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Disposal continued at the controlled tip at Hayle, used jointly by the West Penwith Rural District Council and this Authority.

The Council agreed to dispense with the employment of a third vehicle and collecting team during the Summer season. In consequence labour costs were high, but the lowering in transport expenditure resulted in an overall financial saving.

It must, however, be appreciated that even rising labour costs, coupled with a yearly increase in the number of properties to be served, must inevitably show a progressive rise in the cost of this service.

Street Sweeping

The mileage of roads requiring sweeping amounted to approximately 20 miles of unclassified roads and 10.53 of County Council roads. Early in the Summer season it became evident that the normal seasonal cleansing service was inadequate to cope with the litter problem in the Borough. Accordingly the service was considerably extended, with some substantial measure of success and I should at this stage like to pay tribute to the co-operation received from the Borough Surveyor and his Foreman.

It has been suggested that the basic solution to the litter problem is a matter of education. This must, of necessity, be a long-term problem and for the present the cleansing of littered streets and open spaces has to be faced. This is not only a matter of expenditure, but of finding suitable personnel at a time of maximum employment in a holiday resort. I am glad to be able to report that this Authority considers the cleanliness of the Borough to be a matter of prime importance and is prepared to meet the relatively high expenditure incurred.

Gully Cleansing and Cesspool Emptying Machine.

The vehicle was hired out on 197 occasions as follows:-

West Penwith	115
St. Ives.	53
C.C.Council.	13
St. Just.	12
Penzance.	4

Private Hire - West Penwith Area.

As forecast in the Annual Report for 1954, a system of operation was introduced whereby the cesspool emptying vehicle is on hire to the West Penwith Rural District Council only and persons requiring the service of this vehicle within that Area, enter into contract with the Rural Authority. From our point of view the system has worked admirably, with the added advantage that all work carried out after normal working hours was charged at a more advantageous rate.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

81 inspections were made, of the various conveniences and the revenue received for the year ended 31st March, 1956 was £2,089.

List of Public Conveniences in the Borough

Site	Accommodation		
	Females.	Males.	Urinal Stalls.
Porthminster.	16	3	4
West Pier	10	3	6
Sloop Car Park.	4	3	5
Island.	6	4	6
Meadow	3	2	3
Porthmeor	4	2	3
New Coach Park.	5	2	3
Longstone, Carbis Bay.	2	1	2
Gabriel Street.	3	-	-
Dove Street	-	1	3
Smeatons Pier	-	3	4
Smeatons Pier	-	-	3

The convenience at Longstone, Carbis Bay was completed in August and from the revenue received is obviously justifying its provision.

6. RODENT CONTROL

The normal routine inspections and control measures were continued and all requests for treatment were given urgent attention.

Credit should again be given to Mr. J. Nankervis for the conscientious and able way he keeps the Town substantially free from rodents.

7. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to Health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF -		
		INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICED	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
(i) Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	15	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	50	17	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding Out-Workers premises.)	-	-	-	-
Total	65	17	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.				NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED
	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED To H.M. Inspector	REFERRED BY H.M. INSPECTOR.	
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (s.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) (a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers).	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	1	-

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Comment on this section of my duties does not normally appear in the Annual Report, but I feel mention must be made of the action taken to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Shops Act concerning Sunday Trading.

A close watch was kept on those Shop premises open for trade on Sundays and as a result of the sale of articles not specifically permitted by the Shops Act, three successful cases were taken before the Magistrates.

Despite the apparent anomalies of the leg islation governing this matter, I feel that it will be generally agreed that it is incumbent upon the Shops Act Authority to ensure that advantage is not taken of the Trader who complies with the Statute.

There has been no evidence of the employment of young persons in contravention of the Act and Regulations.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS

(Section 110 and 111)

		SECTION 110			SECTION 111.		
NATURE OF WORK	M/C LINE NO.	NUMBER OF OUT-WORKERS ON AUGUST LIST REQUIRED BY SECTION 110 (1) (c)	No OF CASES OF DEFAULT IN SENDING LISTS TO THE COUNCIL	No of PROSECUTIONS FOR FAILURE TO SUPPLY LISTS	No of INSTANCES OF WORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES	NOTICES SERVED	PROSECUTIONS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing Apparel) Making Etc.	13	6	1	-	-	-	-
Nets, other than wire Nets	29	16	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		22	2	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX A

INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Corrected Notifications)

1955

DISEASE	PENZANCE BOROUGH	ST. IVES BOROUGH	WEST PENWITH RURAL DISTRICT	ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT
Scarlet Fever.	5	1	11	-
Whooping Cough	-	3	1	-
Measles	387	11	150	10
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	14	6	11	7
Other	3	1	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	6	-
Erysipelas	1	-	2	-
Paratyphoid	1	-	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

1955

AREA	NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF IMMUNISATION IN 1955			NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING REFRESHER DOSES
	Under 5.	5 - 14.	Total.	
PENZANCE	195	23	218	420
ST. IVES	85	2	87	79
WEST PENWITH	208	51	259	437
ST. JUST	56	2	58	49

TUBERCULOSIS - NOTIFICATION AND DEATHS FOR 1955

		Number on Register at 31.12.55.	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	Total.
PENZANCE											
Pulmonary	M	93	- -	2 -	1 (1)	1 -	1 -	2 (1)	2 -	- (1)	9 (3)
	F	63	1 -	- -	1 -	2 -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	5 (-)
Non-pul	M	13	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	2 (-)
	F	9	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 (-)
WEST PENWITH											
Pulmonary	M	50	- -	1 -	- -	1 -	1 -	2 -	2 (2)	- (1)	7 (3)
	F	52	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	1 -	- -	1 -	- -	4 (-)
Non-Pul	M	15	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 (-)
	F	14	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 (-)
ST. JUST											
Pulmonary	M	30	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	2 (1)	1 (2)	6 (3)
	F	15	- -	1 -	- -	- (1)	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 (1)
Non - Pul	M	3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- (-)
	F	3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- (-)
ST. IVES											
Pulmonary	M	40	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- (1)	1 -	2 (1)
	F	30	- -	1 -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	4 (-)
Non-Pul	M	5	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- (-)
	F	6	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 (1)	- -	- -	- -	1 (1)

( ) = Deaths. Total notifications 45 Total deaths 12.